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And HB
S. Zimmerman

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office at Fax number 703 872 9303 on April 15, 2003.

Mary Ann Oppas, Secretary

In the Application of Melvin Hatch

Ser.No.: 09/941,029

Filed: August 28, 2001

For: HEAT CONDUCTING SUPPORT FOR CURVED BOTTOM VESSELS

Art Unit: 3727

Examiner: Joseph C. Merek

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

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GROUP 3700

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 01/31/2003

Dear Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 8.

Please add the following new claim 18:

18. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said inner portion and said outer portion define a space that is open in a direction away from where said inner and outer portions adjoin one another.